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LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1954



LEYBURN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Chairman. J. W. Airey. Esq:

Vice-Chairman. J. E. Brown. Esq:

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.

W. Sharpe. M.B. Ch.B. B. Sc: D.P.H. (to 4/10/54)

+ J.L. Cotton. M.B. Ch. B. D.P.H. (from 1/1/55)

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector

+ W. Sutton. M.S.I.A.

+ Contribution to salary from Exchequer.

(2) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR - 1954

To the Chairman and Members of the Leyburn Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1954. As you are aware, I was appointed Medical Officer of Health on January 1st. 1955, hence this Report covers the work carried out by my predecessor, Dr. W. Sharpe.

The health of the district has been very satisfactory during the year under review. The birth rate and death rate compared very favourably with the rates for England and Wales, and a pleasing feature was the absence of deaths of infants under one year of age.

The outstanding public health need of the district is for the provision of sewerage and sewage disposal plants in several of the villages. Although considerable progress has been made in this field, much remains to be done to abate the existing nuisances with their attendant risks to health. The other urgent need is for an all out effort to deal with the unfit houses in the district. No progress has been made during the year in dealing with this problem, meanwhile, many families continue to live in conditions which are a mockery of mid-twentieth century progress

I, am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. Cotton.

October 1955

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION - ASTATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.(a) GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	63,613
Population (Registrar General's Estimate, of Resident Population, mid-year 1954)	6,450
Population (1931 census)	6,851
Population (1951 census)	6,423
Inhabited houses.	1,889
Rateable value.	£30,444
Product of ld. rate	£122

(b) VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total	Rates /1000 Est: Home Pop:	
				Local	England & Wales.
<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>					
Legitimate.	40	47	87 )	14.0	15.2
Illegitimate.	2	1	3 )		
<u>STILL BIRTHS.</u>					
Legitimate.	1	1	2 )	27.1 <sup>+</sup>	24.0 <sup>+</sup>
Illegitimate.	0	0	0 )		
<u>DEATHS.</u>					
All causes.	38	30	68	10.5	11.3 <sup>+</sup>
Maternal causes.	-	-	-	-0 <sup>+</sup>	0.69 <sup>+</sup>
Enteritis and diarrhoea under two years.	-	-	-	-	-

+ Rates per 1000 Total (Live &amp; Still Births)

	Local.	England & Wales.
Death rate of Infants under one year of age		
All infants per 1000 live births.	0	25.5
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	0	-
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	0	-
Deaths from measles (all ages)	0	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0	-

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CLASSIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total
Tuberculosis.	0	0	0
Infective & Parasitic diseases.	0	0	0
Malignant diseases.	10	7	17
Cardio vascular.	18	13	31
Pneumonia.	0	1	1
Other respiratory diseases.	6	4	10
Digestive diseases.	1	0	1
Congenital malformations.	0	0	0
Other diseases.	2	4	6
Motor vehicle accidents.	0	0	0
Other accidents.	0	1	1
Suicide.	1	0	1
Total deaths(all causes)	38	30	68

POPULATION TREND.

	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Mid-year population. (Registrar General's Estimate)	6450	6462	6430	6465	6429	6390	6413
Birth rate.	14.0	16.4	16.8	17.2	17.2	17.7	16.5
Death rate.	10.5	12.7	10.6	12.1	10.3	11.3	10.6

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT - 1948

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the above Act, which deals with the compulsory removal to a place of safety of persons in need of care and attention.



SECTION BGENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The details of the staff are given at the beginning of the report.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Laboratory facilities are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, Friarage Hospital, Northallerton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The North Riding of Yorkshire County Council supply ambulance services from their stations at Northallerton and Bainbridge.

A hospital car service is also operated by the W.V.S. from Middlesbrough.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

Local Hospital accommodation is provided by the Northallerton Hospital Management Committee of the Newcastle Regional Hospital Board. In addition, a number of residents in the Leyburn Area receive both in-patient and out-patient treatment at Darlington and Harrogate Hospitals.

NURSING IN THE HOMES.

The Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery Service is under the general direction of the County Council, with day to day administration being dealt with by the Wensleydale Area Local Health Sub-Committee. Four district nurse/midwives operate in the area.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The equivalent of 1.9 whole-time Domestic Helps were employed in the district during the year and they worked a total of 4265 hours.

(6)

## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

No further improvement in the water supplies in the district was made during 1954.

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A scheme for Finghall was submitted to the Ministry for approval. It is hoped that work will be started early in 1955. Villages in which there is no sewerage and sewage disposal plant are going to report ever increasing nuisances, as with the improvement in water supplies, more and more baths and lavatories are installed. It is suggested that a priority scheme should be drawn up in order that a start can be made in the villages where the problem is most acute. The existing sewage disposal works at Leyburn are grossly overloaded, producing a most unsatisfactory effluent. The provision of new works would be the most satisfactory method of eliminating this nuisance.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The tip at Yarker Bank, Leyburn, is rapidly being filled up and steps should be taken to acquire a fresh site. Generally the collection of household refuse in the district is satisfactory.

## SECTION D

#### HOUSING

No progress has been made during the year under review in dealing with the unfit houses in the area. Once the housing survey is completed and the magnitude of the problem ascertained, it should be possible to make a start on this urgent requirement.

Tables in the Sanitary Inspector's section show the progress made in building new houses in the district.



SECTION E.MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.(1) MEAT.

In July 1954, the Ministry of Food who had been responsible since 1940 for the slaughtering of all cattle, sheep and pigs for human consumption, relinquished their powers and slaughtering reverted to the pre-war basis. Three slaughter houses have been licensed by the Local Authority in this area, and this figure includes the one used by the Ministry during the period of control. The Local Authority did not use its powers to take over the slaughter house in use by the Ministry of Food, and this reversion to private slaughtering can only be regarded as a retrograde step from a Public Health point of view. The difficulties involved in meat inspection have been greatly increased. It is hoped that the 'Inter-departmental Committee's Report on Slaughter houses' with their recommendation for a policy of moderate concentration be implemented at an early date. This report estimates that approximately 142 slaughter house areas would adequately serve the entire needs for England and Wales.

(2) OTHER FOODS.

Details are to be found in the Sanitary Inspector's section.

SECTION F.PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

It will be seen from the statistical below that there was no undue prevalence of any infectious disease during the year.

<u>Infectious diseases notified.</u>	Males	Females	Total
Typhoid fever.	0	0	0
Paratyphoid fever.	0	0	0
Meningococcal infection.	1	0	1
Scarlet fever.	2	0	2
Whooping cough.	0	5	5
Diphtheria.	0	0	0
Erysipelas.	2	1	3
Smallpox.	0	0	0
Measles.	7	9	16
Pneumonia.	3	2	5
Acute Poliomyelitis(including Polioencephalitis.			
Paralytic.	0	0	0
Non-paralytic.	0	0	0
Food poisoning.	1	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia.	0	0	0



DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following figures relate to the immunisation state of the child population:-

<u>Age group.</u>	<u>Immunised.</u>
0-4	50%
5-14	78%

I would like to repeat Dr. Sharpe's warning that the level of immunisation against diphtheria in the pre-school group is too low, only 50% having been protected against this serious disease. Every effort should be made to encourage parents with young children to have this simple procedure carried out. The minimum safety level is for approximately 75% of the population at risk to be immunised. Until this figure is reached, there will always be a danger of this dreaded disease returning to the community.

VACCINATION.

46% of the children born during 1954 were notified as having been vaccinated against Smallpox. Whilst this figure shows a considerable improvement on the 1953 total of 36%, the position is still not satisfactory and every effort should be made to raise the figure still higher.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Group.	<u>New cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
under								
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-14	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
15-24	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-34	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-54	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-64	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 +	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	5	3	0	1	0	0	0	0

There were 29 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis on the register at the 31st. December 1954. This gives a rate of 5.12 cases of Tuberculosis per 1000 population, as compared with 4.49 in 1953.

APPENDIX

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INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SANITARY INSPECTOR

A total of 1000 inspections were made during the year and analysis of these is given below :-

	Inspection	Informal Notices	Not complied with.	Statutory Notices.	Not complied with.
Council's works.	441	-	-	-	-
Housing.	233	-	-	-	-
Slaughter houses.	147	-	-	-	-
Dairies.	22	2	-	-	-
Public Health Acts.	157	5	-	1	1
Total -	1000	7	-	1	1

FACTORIES ACT - 1937

	Powered & non-powered	Number on Register	Inspection.	Number of written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	N.P. 45	N.P. 45	26	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies.	P 17	P 17	7	1	-
Total -	62	62	33	1	-



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TRADES.

Builders.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Plumbers.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Joiners.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Electricians.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Bakers.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Motor repair shops.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Milk receiving depots.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Blacksmiths.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Cheese factory.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sawmills.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Sand & gravel.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Saddler.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Quarries.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Printers.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Boot & shoe repairers.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

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HOUSING AND NEW BUILDINGS.

Details of houses under construction and those completed by private enterprise since 1945.

Parish	Completed.	Under construction at end of year.
Bellerby.	1	-
Coverham.	6	-
Finghall.	1	-
Harmby.	2	-
Hornby.	3	1
Hunton.	2	-
Leyburn.	28	1
Middleham.	3	2
Newton-le-Willows.	3	-
Patrick Brompton.	1	-
Preston.	1	-
Redmire.	-	1
Thornton Steward.	1	1
Wensley.	1	-
West Witton.	1	-
Total -	54	6

The table below gives details of houses under construction and those completed since 1945 in the respective parishes.

By Leyburn Rural District Council.

Parish	Completed.	Under construction at end of year.
Arrathorne.	4	-
Bellerby.	10	-
Constable Burton.	10	-
East Witton.	4	-
Finghall.	8	-
Harmby.	6	-
Hunton.	14	-
Leyburn.	75	-
Middleham.	44	-
Newton-le-Willows.	4	-
Patrick Brompton.	2	-
Preston.	3	-
Redmire.	6	-
Spennithorne.	14	-
Thornton Steward.	4	-
Wensley.	4	-
West Witton.	8	-
Total -	220	-

#### CAMP SITES.

There are no camp sites in the area.

#### BUILDING LICENCES.

The following table gives details of work licensed to October 1954

	No.	Values.
New dwellings.      ..      ..      ..	6	£19,160
Repairs and adaptations.      ..      ..	1	£3,750
Total	7	£22,910



(12)

PLANS.

56 plans were considered during the year. Details are shown in the table below.

Parish	New build-ings	Alter-ations to dwellings	Garages and sheds.	Cow sheds and dairies.	Other build-ings.	Total
Bellerby.	1	1	-	-	-	2
Carlton.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Constable Burton.	-	-	-	1	1	2
Coverham.	-	-	-	-	2	2
Castle Bolton.	-	-	1	1	-	2
East Witton.	-	1	1	-	1	3
Finghall.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Garriston.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Hornby.	1	-	-	-	-	1
Leyburn.	2	5	6	-	5	18
Melmerby.	-	1	-	-	-	1
Middleham.	3	-	-	-	1	4
Newton-le-Willows.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Patrick Brompton.	-	-	-	-	1	1
Redmire.	-	-	-	-	2	2
Spennithorne.	-	3	2	-	-	5
Thornton Steward.	1	-	-	-	-	1
Wensley.	-	-	2	-	-	2
West Scafton.	-	-	-	1	-	1
West Witton.	-	2	3	-	-	5
Total -	8	13	15	3	17	56

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER.

Sample No.	Date of sampling.	Address.	Summary of Analyst's Report.
238	8/3/54	Middleham - Tap in School	Unsatisfactory.
239	9/3/54	Leyburn. - Tap in School. (County)	Satisfactory.
240	9/3/54	Leyburn. - Tap in R. C. School.	Satisfactory.
241	22/3/54	Newton. - Tap in School.	Satisfactory.
242	22/3/54	Spennithorne - Tap in School.	Satisfactory.
243	22/3/54	Constable Burton. Tap in School.	Satisfactory.
244	17/3/54	West Witton - Tank at Grassgill.	Unsatisfactory.
245	9/3/54	Carlton. - Tap in School.	Unsatisfactory.



Sample No.	Date of sampling.	Address.	Summary of Analyst's Report.
246	5/4/54	Bellerby.	Satisfactory.
247	19/5/54	Thornton Steward.	Satisfactory.
248	25/5/54	Middleham.	Unsatisfactory.
249	2/6/54	Redmire.	Unsatisfactory.
250	2/6/54	Carlton.	Grossly contaminated.
251	29/6/54	Wensley.	Satisfactory.
252	12/7/54	Bellerby.	Satisfactory.
253	1/9/54	Middleham.	Unsatisfactory.
254	6/10/54	Wensley.	Unsatisfactory.
255	8/9/54	East Witton.	Satisfactory.
256	8/9/54	Spennithorne.	Satisfactory.
257	29/9/54	Carlton.	Unsatisfactory.
258	29/9/54	Redmire.	Unsatisfactory.
259	29/9/54	Wensley.	Unsatisfactory.
260	29/9/54	West Witton.	Satisfactory.
261	2/11/54	Hunton.	Unsatisfactory.
262	2/11/54	Hauxwell.	Unsatisfactory.
263	2/11/54	Thornton Steward.	Unsatisfactory.
264	2/11/54	Newton.	Unsatisfactory.
265	8/11/54	East Witton.	Unsatisfactory.
266	9/11/54	East Witton.	Satisfactory.
267	9/11/54	Newton.	Satisfactory.
268	22/11/54	Thornton Steward.	Satisfactory.
269	22/11/54	West Witton.	Suspicious.
270	8/11/54	Hauxwell.	Satisfactory.
271	8/11/54	Hunton.	Satisfactory.
272	20/10/54	Bellerby.	Satisfactory.
273	22/11/54	Thornton Steward.	Satisfactory.
274	22/11/54	West Witton.	Satisfactory.
275	8/12/54	Middleham.	Unsatisfactory.
276	14/12/54	Carlton.	Unsatisfactory.
277	15/12/54	Constable Burton.	Satisfactory.
278	15/12/54	Spennithorne.	Satisfactory.
279	15/12/54	Leyburn.	Satisfactory.
280	15/12/54	Leyburn.	Satisfactory.
281	21/12/54	Wensley.	Unsatisfactory.



MEAT INSPECTIONS.

				Graded Animals.	Casualty Animals.
Cattle.	...	...	...	239	94
Calves.	...	...	...	11	35
Sheep.	...	...	...	1221	143
Pigs.	...	...	...	252	54

Total weight of meat and offal condemned. - 6 tons. - 13cwts. - 2 qrs.  
 Total weight affected with tuberculosis. - - 17cwts. - 3 qrs.

Details of carcasses inspected and condemned.

			Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
Number killed.	...	...	335	46	1364	306
Number inspected.	...	...	305	46	1045	246
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:-</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	...		15	14	37	11
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	...		174	2	41	18
Percentage of number inspected.			32%	18%	3%	11%
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	...		6	-	-	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	...		42	-	-	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.			6.3%	-	-	3%

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

During the year the following food stuffs were inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption.

Article.	No.	Weight.		
		cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Brisket beef.	1 tin.			5
Fish (assorted)	1 crate.		2	21
Ham.	-			4
Cheese.	-	9	1	5
Liquid eggs.	1 tin.			11
Corned beef.	3 tins.			18
Cammembert cheese..	6 doz:		1	26

# HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR - 1954

(15)

Number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(a)	Total(including numbers given separately under (b)	...	...	24
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts:			
(i)	By the Local Authority	...	...	15
(ii)	By other bodies or persons.	...	...	9

1 - Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection - (1)	(a) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects(under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	...	355
	(b) Number of inspections	...	383
(2)	(a) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing(Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	177
	(b) Number of inspections.	...	269
(3)	Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	26
(4)	Number of Dwelling houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	105

2 - Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	30
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3 - Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act. 1930

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	...	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.		
	(a) By Owners.	...	nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	...	nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close.	...	nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.		
	(a) By Owners.	...	nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil



(16)

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR- 1954 (contd)

C. - Proceedings under sections 19 & 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | ... | nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.    | ... | nil |

D.- Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.

- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.  | ... | nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. | ... | nil |

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